

ENHANCEMENT: Enhanced Long Term No-Till

BENEFITS

Major Benefits:

- Capture atmospheric Carbon and store it in the soil.
- Reduce fossil fuel use, thus reducing CO₂ emissions
- Increase rainfall infiltration and reduce runoff, helping to regulate streamflow.
- Improve soil quality and nutrient use efficiency.
- Increased moisture-holding capacity of the soil.
- Improved habitat for ground-nesting and non-game wildlife species.

CRITERIA

To be eligible for this enhancement payment, fields must meet the following criteria.

- At least 90% (or 85% if legume or grass/legume mix) ground cover is required after planting row crops. (Summer cover is not likely to provide adequate cover for the following spring planting season.) Use the Line Transect method. Assistance is available from NRCS.
- Soil disturbance in harvesting operations must be held to a minimum. Crops that require digging may not be repeated more often than once in three years.
- Winter cover crops are required to achieve the 85% or 95% ground cover. Small grain planting must not be later than November 1, legume or grass/legume mix no later than October 1.
- A legume or grass/legume mixture must be used at least every third year.
- After corn grain or milo (sorghum) for grain, the cover crop seeding rate may be reduced by one-half.
- Use of surface tillage, such as airway or disk, is not allowed. Use of a cover crop roller is encouraged, but not required, unless needed to achieve the ground cover.
- No more than 10% of row spacing width may be disturbed by the planting operation.
- Winter cover crops may not be terminated prior to boot stage for grasses and flower stage for legumes.
- Areas rutted during harvest or other operations may be repaired in accordance with methods prior approved by NRCS.
- Where Hessian Fly in wheat is a concern, choose resistant species or varieties, or control with insecticides or adjust crop rotation.

RECORDKEEPING

In order to verify performance with these criteria, you must complete the following records.

Field	Year/Crop/Cover Crop	Tillage Practice	Percent Ground Cover	Date Checked
Ex: 1-5	2005 Corn/Rye-Crimson Clover mix	No-till	95%	5/20/05